

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3544

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 3433

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: SREF, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN EMIGRATION PROBLEM

REF: (A) STATE 293489, (B) PORT AU PRINCE A-115, 12/6/76

1. INTERVIEWS OF DEPORTEES. EMBASSY HAS THUS FAR SUCCEEDED IN LOCATING ONE OF 29 DEPORTEES LISTED REFTEL WHO WERE DENIED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. REPORT OF THIS AND OTHER INTERVIEWS BEING SUBMITTED SEPARATELY.

2. NOTIFICATION OF DEPORTATION. REFTEL INDICATED THAT EMBASSY (FORMER POLOFF JOHN VINCENT) WAS NOTIFIED B INS/ MIAMI BY TELEPHONE PRIOR TO DEPORTATION OF ONLY FIVE OF THE 64 CASES CITED. OUR FILES CORROBATE ONLY TWO OF THESE PRIOR NOTIFICATIONS (CASES OF LUCIEN JACQUES AND JAMES BONY), AND THESE WERE RECEIVED LESS THAN TWO HOURS BEFORE THEIR ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL. CONSISTENT, TIMELY, AND FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF DEPORTEES WILL BE NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO MONITOR THEIR RECEPTION AND REINTEGRATION IN HAITI. WE SUGGEST INS/MIAMI AND DEPARTMENT WORK OUT METHOD TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

3. MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION. ADDRESSES GIVEN IN REFTEL ARE IN MOST CASES INADEQUATE TO EVEN BEGIN TO TRACE A DEPORTEE. EMBASSY SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH COPY OF FORM I-589 COMPLETED IN ASYLUM CASES AND SUMMARY OF IMMIGRATION DOSSIER IN REGULAR DEPORTATION

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CASES, PREFERABLY BEFORE ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL OF

DEPORTEE IN HAITI.

4. CANADIAN FOLLOW-UP. CANADIAN EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED, AND WE ARE SUBMITTING BY AIRGRAM, SUMMARY OF SEVERAL INVESTIGATIONS OF DEPORTEES FROM CANADA CONDUCTED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. EMBASSY RETIRES FILES AFTER TWO YEARS AND IS NO LONGER IN POSSESSION OF DETAILED INFORMATION ON SOME CASES. EMBASSY WILL MAKE ITS FILES AVAILABLE TO ORM OFFICER WHEN HE VISITS HAITI IN LATTER PART OF JANUARY (REFAIR).

5. OTHER AGENCY HELP IN MONITORING TREATMENT OF DEPORTEES. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS FOLLOW-UP PROBLEM WITH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, WHICH RECENTLY SENT DELEGATE TO HAITI TO INVESTIGATE PRISON CONDITIONS -- A VISIT WHICH, ACCORDING TO HAITIAN RED CROSS PRESIDENT, PROMPTED PRESIDENT DUVALIER TO INSPECT PRISONS HIMSELF AND TO DECIDE ON RELEASE OF 261 DETAINEES LAST SEPTEMBER. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES INVOLVED IN RELIEF AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION SUCH AS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE, CARE AND CHURCH WORLD SERVICES WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERTAKE ANY SYSTEMATIC MONITORING OF TREATMENT OF DEPORTEES, BUT MIGHT OCCASIONALLY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON AN AD HOC BASIS. EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF HAITI MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IN SOME CASES.

6. UNHCR INVOLVEMENT. EMBASSY ENDORSES DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO ENCOURAGE A VISIT TO HAITI BY THE LEGAL OFFICER RECENTLY POSTED TO HIGH COMMISSION'S NEW YORK OFFICE TO WORK ON HAITIAN REFUGEE MATTERS. IF THIS VISIT COULD BE SCHEDULED CONCURRENTLY WITH THAT OF ORM OFFICER, EVERYONE'S INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED.
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